

Message Text

SECRET

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21

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 180844Z SEP 76

FM AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4930

INTO RUQMOD/AMEMBASSY DOHA 498

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

S E C R E T ABU DHABI 2496

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, MARR, QA, TC, US

SUBJ: US ARMS POLICY IN LOWER GULF

REF: DOHA 968

1. EMBASSY CAN WELL APPRECIATE PROBLEMS WHICH CONVEYING USG
DECISION ON F-5 INFORMATION PRESENTS FOR EMBASSY DOHA AND
WE HAVE NO DESIRE TO MAKE THAT EXERCISE MORE DIFFICULT.
WE DO, HOWEVER, HAVE RESERVATIONS RE CITING TO AMIR AND
OTHER GOQ OFFICIALS SPECIFIC EXAMPLES OF APPLICATION US
ARMS POLICY IN LOWER GULF. CLEARLY WHEN PAST DECISIONS NOW
PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE (E.G. SALE OF TOW'S TO OMAN) THERE IS NO
PROBLEM. LIKEWISE GENERAL STATEMENTS TO EFFECT WE HAVE
DENIED OTHER REQUESTS IN AREA BOTH TRUE AND ACCEPTABLE.
BUT WE SEE TWO DIFFICULTIES IN GOING FURTHER -

(A) WE BELIEVE IT LIKELY THAT GOQ WILL BE ABLE TO
IDENTIFY COUNTRIES INVOLVED EVEN IF WE DO NOT NAME
NAMES-- E.G. IF WE TELL AMIR WE HAVE DENIED SALE OF
TOW'S TO ONE COUNTRY IN LOWER GULF THIS ALMOST HAS
TO BE THE UAE. WE QUESTION WHETHER SUCH DETAIL RE
USG-UAEG DEALINGS SHOULD BE CONVEYED TO OTHERS.

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(B) PERHAPS MORE IMPORTANT, WE BELIEVE THAT BY RELAYING SUCH SPECIFIC INFO TO OTHERS WE WILL BE BOXING OURSELVES IN FOR FUTURE. AGAIN TO CITE UAE TOW CASE, ADDRESSEES WILL HAVE NOTED FROM NEA/ARP STATUS REPORTS THAT POSSIBILITY OF MAKING SUCH SALE HAS BEEN REOPENED AND THAT THERE IS EVEN SOME HOPE THAT IT WILL GO THROUGH. IF WE HAD TOLD THE AMIR OF QATAR TEN MONTHS AGO OF OUR REFUSAL OF FIRST REQUEST, SITUATION WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE MUCH MORE DIFFICULT NOW. WE WOULD EITHER HAVE TO REFUSE, FOR WHAT WE BELIEVE TO BE WRONG REASONS, TO REEXAMINE UAEG REQUEST OR WE WOULD BE PUTTING OURSELVES IN POSITION OF APPEARING TO HAVE DECEIVED AMIR. CLEARLY WE SHOULD SEEK TO AVOID SUCH DILEMMA.

2. AGAIN WE REALIZE ABOVE POINTS, IF ACCEPTED, WILL NOT MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER FOR AMBASSADOR PAGANELLI. BUT WE HOPE WE CAN BE EXCUSED FOR AKING SOMEWHAT SELFISH VIEW OF THE PROBLEM.
PEALE

SECRET

NNN

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